



Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION



Governor Charles D. Baker  
Lt. Governor Karyn E. Polito  
EEA Secretary Matthew A. Beaton  
DCR Commissioner Carol I. Sanchez

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## DCR Announces a New Round of Volunteer Fire Assistance Grants

*Funding to Provide Financial, Technical, and Related Wildland Fire Assistance*

**BOSTON** – Thursday, May 14, 2015- Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Commissioner Carol Sanchez announced today that \$65,542.00 has been made available in the 2015 Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grant funding program for eligible towns. Funding for this program, which is provided by the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service, is administered by DCR's Bureau of Forest Fire Control and Forestry.

"The Volunteer Fire Assistance grants are an extremely important funding tool to assist qualifying local fire departments that might not have the means to pay for vital equipment and training needed to combat wildland fires within their borders," **said DCR Commissioner Carol Sanchez**. "The recent outbreak of brushfires across the Commonwealth only reinforces the value of the VFA grants."

VFA grants are available to non-profit rural call or volunteer fire departments that provide service primarily to a community or city with a population of 10,000 or less. Fire departments must be comprised of at least 80% call or volunteer firefighters, must be recognized as a fire department under state law, and must be National Incident Management System compliant.

Applications with eligibility guidelines were mailed last week to the Commonwealth's Forest Wardens in all eligible communities. The completed application must be received by Program Coordinator Roxanne B. Savoie, DCR Bureau of Forest Fire Control, Hampton Ponds State Park, 1048 North Road/Route 202, Westfield, Massachusetts 01085 **on or before June 12, 2015**. For questions regarding the application process, please call 413-538-9092, ext. 400.

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), an agency of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, oversees 450,000 acres of parks and forests, beaches, bike trails, watersheds, dams, and parkways. Led by Commissioner Carol Sanchez, the agency's mission is to protect, promote, and enhance our common wealth of natural, cultural, and recreational resources. To learn more about DCR, our facilities, and our programs, please visit [www.mass.gov/dcr](http://www.mass.gov/dcr). Contact us at [mass.parks@state.ma.us](mailto:mass.parks@state.ma.us).

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